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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release:	February 13, 2001 2 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence	January 19, 2001
Nature of Call	Arson/Homicide investigation results
Location of Call	Penryn
Case Number	SO 01 1180
Released by	Lt. Rick Armstrong (530) 889-7816

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

As a result of a multi-agency investigation, it has been determined that Bertha Sue Jacobson was responsible for starting the January 19 fire in her Penryn home that resulted in the death of her husband, Donald, and herself.

This conclusion was reached using physical evidence found at the scene, a history of arson-related behavior on the part of Mrs. Jacobson and statements she made prior to the fire.

At the time of her death, Mrs. Jacobson's blood alcohol level was .18 percent. Both Donald Jacobson, 62, and Bertha Jacobson, 59, died as a result of the fire. There was no evidence of foul play prior to the fire.

Investigators found no indication that anyone else could have been responsible for lighting the Rock Springs Road home on fire. There was no evidence of burglary or of forced entry into the home. It was further determined that there was no motive for someone else to commit this crime against the couple.

This and other press releases may be found at www.placer.ca.gov/sheriff.